

Before The
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

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In the Matter of
Proposal for Creation of the Low Power FM
(LPFM) Broadcast Service

FCC RM- 9242

Comments of J. Peter Van Nort

I respectfully request the Commission approve and adopt the above referenced Petition for Rulemaking concerning creation of a new national Low Power FM Broadcast Service (LPFM) utilizing reasonable transmitting power levels.

For the past 25 years I have lived and worked in several isolated, rural villages and small communities in Alaska and know first hand, the need for improved local broadcast service in these areas. Most small Alaskan communities have virtually no local radio service yet are faced with severe public safety issues such as adverse weather conditions, flooding, wildfires, high winds, earthquakes and other natural disasters.

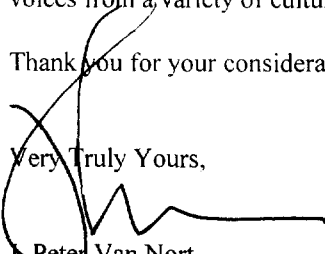
Until now, these communities have been without local broadcast service because they lack the necessary economic base to fund construction of a full size broadcast facility. Fewer can afford to maintain the high cost of operating a full size radio station. LPFM will provide an economical but important local voice in these areas during times of an emergency.

In larger communities such as Fairbanks, the majority of our media outlets (including radio, television and newspaper) are now owned by large, national corporations based, in some cases, thousands of miles from the community they serve. The revamped Telecommunications Act and the many changes we have seen in our industry generally have been positive, unfortunately media diversity in the local market is now just a vague memory. LPFM has the capacity to bring back localism and programming diversity to radio.

The creation of a commercial, low power FM service (with its simple to file, inexpensive to construct and operate features) is an attractive alternative to the exorbitant costs of building and operating a full size FM broadcast station. LPFM stations will create opportunities for individuals, minorities, women, small business owners and others with limited financial means, to own and operate local radio stations in their hometowns. LPFM will provide isolated communities with the potential to receive "first-time" local radio service, including a means to distribute essential public safety information during an emergency. Larger communities will realize many new (and diversified) media voices from a variety of cultural backgrounds.

Thank you for your consideration; I encourage your prompt adoption of FCC RM-9242.

Very Truly Yours,


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